Indian Abroad

3814. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians living in the countries with which India is having diplomatic relations;

(b) whether any regular census is conducted for such migrant Indians;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide them right of franchise in Parliamentary elections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) There are approximately fourteen million Indians living in countries with which India has diplomatic relations.

(b) No, Sir. No regular census is conducted for such migrant Indians.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide these Indians the right of franchise in Parliamentary elections. Under the existing law, for a person to be entitled to be registered as a voter in a particular constituency, one of the requirements is that he/she should be ordinarily resident of that constituency. In certain cases, where persons are forced to remain away from their home constituency by the compulsion of their office under the Government of India and in public interest, provision has been made for enrolment of such persons by treating them as ordinary resident of the constituency where they would have resided but for compulsion of their office under the Government of India. Therefore, there is no justification under existing law to grant right of franchise to those who are normally not resident in their constituency out of their own volition and in their own personal private interest. It may also be pointed out that the basic concept of direct elections from territorial constituencies envisages a direct nexus between the voter and the constituency from where he/she intends to vote and this nexus arises by reason of his/her ordinary residence in the constituency. In addition, there would be practical difficulties in extending voting rights to Indian citizens living abroad.

[English]

Olympic Games

3815. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken effective steps for participating in Atlanta Olympics;

(b) whether the Indian Olympics Association had started preparation for Olympic games on time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve performance of Indian players in future competitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The process of imparting training to the sport persons and teams is undertaken in consultation with the Sports Authority of India and concerned National Sports Federations as part of Long Term Development Plans. Coaching camps, equipment, scientific support, competition exposure is provided to the players as per the approved programme and the same are reviewed from time to time.

(d) The steps that the Government have taken to improve the performance of Indian players in future competitions include:--

(i) Formulation of Long Term Development Plans for each discipline in consultation with the concerned Federations.

(ii) Continuous dialogue with Private and Public Sector Companies to increase their investment in Sports, both in infrastructure as also in development of sports academies.

(iii) Better monitoring of the proposals of infrastructure is being done to ensure that limited resources are not spread too thinly.

(iv) Action has also been initiated to bring Sports on the concurrent list. At present Sports is a State subject.

Mentally and Physically Handicapped Person

3816. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing increase in the number of mentally and physically handicapped boys and girls in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such persons, state-wise;

(c) the main factors responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for treatment and rehabilitation of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c). No reliable data is available to indicate the trend. However, a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991 covering Visual, Hearing, Speech and Locomotor Disabilities had estimated 16.15 million people having at least one of the 4 disabilities and it constitutes 1.9% of the total estimated population. The same was estimated to be 12 million in 1981 and it was 1.8% of the total population. A sample survey by NSSD in the same year among children in the age group 1—14 have revealed 3% of the total population to have delayed Mental development. Malnutrition, incidence of disabilities due to diseases like Tuberculosis, Leprosy, incidence of increased accidents; general degradation in the environment; deficiency of Iodine etc. are some of the factors responsible for disability.

(d) National programmes on (i) Blindness Control; (ii) Tuberculosis; (iii) Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control; (iv) Nutrition; (v) Immunisation; (vi) Leprosy; (vii) Mental Health etc; coupled with a host of Institutions providing rehabilitation services are in operation for treatment and rehabilitation of handicapped persons.

[Translation]

Non-Formal Education Scheme

3817. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in which non-formal Education Scheme is being implemented;

(b) whether any review of the scheme has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds provided to the State under the scheme to provide salaries to staff of Non-formal Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-formal Education is being implemented in 21 States/UTs., namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi.

(b) and (c). Based on the past experience gained and the problems faced in its implementation, the scheme was reviewed in 1993 for continuation in the 8th Five Year Plan. Major modifications effected in the Scheme as a result of the review include increase in central share for co-educational centres; enhancement of Project cost; increase in proportion of girls centres; provision of more flexibility and decentralisation in implementation.

(d) The NFE scheme provides for appointment of one part-time Instructor in a NFE centre at primary level and two part-time Instructors at Upper Primary level. These Instructors are paid honorarium of Rs. 200 per month and Rs. 250 per month respectively.

[English]

Training Establishments for Officers of Army and Air Force

3818. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any major training establishments for officers of Army and Air Force in the State of Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to create Defence training units for officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The training institutions for officers of the Air Force are mostly located near the Southern Command Hqrs for operational and administrative reasons. Most of the major training institutions of the Army were established prior to Independence by the British Government on their needs including fighting in Burma in the IInd World War. After Independence, these training institutions have been continued in the same locations. After Independence, a few new training institutions have been started and the reasons for locating them at a particular place are based on:—